



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,594	07/24/2003	Masahiro Chida	1131-0486P	7938
2292	7590	06/23/2006	[REDACTED]	EXAMINER
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			[REDACTED]	ROGERS, DAVID A
			[REDACTED]	ART UNIT
			[REDACTED]	PAPER NUMBER
			2856	

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The applicant's communication dated 02 February 2006 states that their Information Disclosure Statement filed 24 July 2003 was never acknowledged.

A review of the application history shows that there is no IDS on file for 24 July 2003. Therefore, there was no way to return an initialed/signed copy. However, the applicant's transmittal letter of 24 July 2003 does list an IDS as being part of the original filed application. The transmittal letter also shows that the International Search Report was filed. This, too, is not in the application's file.

Since the transmittal letter shows the IDS as being submitted it is being examined. The Abstract for Japanese Laid Open Patent Application Publication 03-170838, listed on the IDS copy filed on 02 February 2006, does not appear to affect the patentability of the applicant's claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Rogers whose telephone number is (571) 272-2205. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (0730 - 1600). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron E. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*[Signature]*  
darc  
14 June 2006

*Hezron A. Williams*  
HEZRON WILLIAMS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800